# THE ANNUAL REPORTS

FOR 1898

OF THE

### SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

# URBAN & RURAL SANITARY DISTRICTS

OF

### TAUNTON.

ALSO THE

### SANITARY HOSPITAL.

BV

HENRY J. ALFORD, M.D., Lond.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

TAUNTON:

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### TAUNTON URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.



### REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health, for the Year 1898.

Population of District (1891)	• • •	18,026
Estimated Population to middle of 1898	• • •	20,113
Area in Statute Acres	• • •	1,437
Birth Rate per 1,000 of Population	• • •	27.0
Death Rate per 1,000 of Population	•••	15
Zymotic Death Rate	•••	0.4
Infant Mortality per 1,000	•	119.4

To the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough of Taunton.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report of the health of the Borough of Taunton during the year 1898, and of the Sanitary work carried out during the year.

As this Report will show, the year has been a remarkably healthy one, and free from Epidemic Disease.

#### 1. Sanitary Condition of the Town.

#### 1. Water Supply.

The Water Supply during the year has been in every way satisfactory, notwithstanding the dry weather and the extra demand made upon the supply by the extension of mains there has not only been no deficiency, but the daily supply has been good. The quality of the water, too, retains its good character. I have made an analysis quarterly and presented it to your Council.

The following analysis may be taken as an average one Total Solids ... ... 14'o grains per gallon. Chlorine as Chlorides . . ,, Nitrogen as Nitrates ... nil. Nitrites ... ... ... nil. Oxygen consumed in 15 minutes o'05 ,, ,, ,, 4 hours ... o'08 ,, Free Ammonia ... ... o'02 parts p " 0.02 parts per million. Albuminoid Ammonia ... 0.06 . . . ,, Hardness

Your Water Manager (Mr. H. T. Coles) has kindly given me the following particulars:—The extension of mains without the Borough and other works have been heavier than in some previous years. An enquiry was held in April by H. Law, Esq., R.E., L.G.B. Inspector, for a loan of £10,000 for works of Water Supply, and for the purchase of land, laying mains, and making a tunnel and shafts in connection therewith. The loan has since been granted and the work commenced.

As in former years, the sewers have been constantly flushed from the mains. This was the more necessary in consequeuce of the prolonged drought.

At the present time the Town is receiving a constant supply, and the reservoirs are overflowing and have been for some weeks, during which time millions of gallons have been running to waste. When the new storage reservoir is built all this waste will be obviated and a constant service ensured all the year round.

#### Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

Two points of great importance have been dealt with by your Council during the year in regard to the sewerage and sewage disposal of the Town. Now that it has become an accomplished fact that the Bacteriological method of dealing

with sewage is the correct one, matters have become much simplified. It is in fact doing what land has done, only under more advantageous and economical circumstances. costly chemical processes, with their necessary concomitants of sludge presses, &c., may be looked upon as things of the The point to be decided was in what form should this Bacteriological method be carried out, whether merely by filtration or by the addition of a tank in which the solid matters get destroyed by the aid of anærobic Bacteria. exhaustive Local Government Board Enquiry at Exeter was of great assistance in deciding the question, and your Council in March adopted the system carried out there and known as the Septic Tank system. Its great advantage appears to me to be its automatic character. Not only does this ensure the regular and efficient carrying out of the system, but also great economy in so doing by the saving of labour.

Mr. Martin, of Exeter, made an inspection of the present works and found that they could be converted with ease to suit the new mode of treatment. Plans and specifications were then prepared by Messrs. Cameron, Commin, and Martin, and an application made to the Local Government Board to a loan of £18,000 for the purchase of Lambrook Farm and carrying out the necessary works, and on December 15th an enquiry was held by Col. Durnford, L.G.B. Inspector, on the subject.

The other important matter is that of the sewerage of the Northern or Rowbarton District of the Town. The rapidly increasing population of this part rendered it imperative that works should be carried out to relieve the already overburdened sewage system of the Station Road and neighbouring locality. This for a long time past has been subject to flooding on the occasion of heavy storms. The advice of Mr. Santo Crimp having been obtained, it was determined to take a new sewer through Obridge to the Sewage Works, there to discharge without pumping, and an application was made to the Local Government Board for a loan of £7,500 for the purpose. On the 7th of June an enquiry was held by Col. Luard, L.G.B. Inspector, on the subject, and since then the necessary sanction has been obtained.

As regards the Sewage Works themselves, the work there has been merely tentative, pending the adoption of the new scheme. The works have been kept very clean and the effluent has been clear and nearly inodorous, although chemically impure. During the Summer, complaints were made of a smell arising from the sludge. This arose from the land into which it was trenched having been used over and over again. When fresh land was used the nuisance disappeared.

#### Mortality during the Year 1898.

The total Deaths during the year were 299. This includes those in the Borough proper, also residents who died in the Taunton and Somerset Hospital and Union Workhouse. To this number should be added three residents who died in the Sanitary Hospital, which is situated just outside the Borough. This will make the total 302, or at the rate of 15 per 1,000. The average of the preceding ten years was 17'1 per 1,000.

#### LOCALTIES.

The following table shows the various localties in which the deaths occurred:—

St. Mary's District	• • •	• • •	• • •	106 d	eaths.
St Inmac'	• • •	• • •	• • •	151	,,
Taunton and Somerset	Hospi	tal	• •	17	,,
Union Workhouse	•••	• • •		25	,,
Sanitary Hospital	• • •	• • •	• • •	3	,,
			-		
	To	tal	• • •	302	, ,

#### SEXES.

Of the 302, 154 were Males and 148 Females.

#### Ages at Death.

The various ages were as follows:—

Under 1	year	• • •	• • .	• • •	• • •	65
1 to 5	years		• • •	• • •	• • •	21
5 to 15	,,	• • •	• • •	• • •	• • •	10
15 to 25	,,	• • •	•••		• • •	I 2
25 to 60	,,	• • •	• • •	• • •	• • •	69
Over 60	,,	• •	• • •	•••	• • •	125
				Total		302

#### DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

The total Deaths in Public Institutions numbered 73. 37 of these were in the Taunton and Somerset Hospital, 17 of which were Borough cases, 9 from the Taunton Rural District, and 11 from other parts of the County. There were 36 Deaths in the Union Workhouse, 25 of which were from the Borough, and 11 from the Rural District.

#### Causes of Death.

#### I. ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

There were only 15 deaths from the seven diseases included under this title. They were:—

Scarlet Fever.	• • •	* > •	2
Enteric Fever	• • •	• • •	2
Measles	•	• • •	1
Whooping Cough	• • •	•••	I
Diarrhœa	•••	•	9
To	otal .	•••	15

This makes a Zymotic death rate of 0.7, which is very low, and compares favourably with former years.

#### 2. OTHER DISEASES.

Influenza, which was epidemic at the beginning of the year, caused 16 deaths; 17 were due to phthisis; 46 to bronchitis, pneumonia and pleurisy; 3 to erysipelas; 23 to heart disease; and 3 to injuries; and 179 to other diseases, making, with the 15 from Zymotic diseases, a total of 302.

#### Births during 1898.

The total Births during the year numbered 544, or at the rate of 27 o per 1,000 of the Population.

220 of these occurred in St. Mary's District and 324 in St. James'.

The Infant Mortality for the year was 119.4.

Below are given the Birth, Death, and Zymotic rates and Infant Mortality for the years 1890 to 1898 inclusive.

		Birth Rate.		Death Rate.	Zy	motic Rate	. Ir	ıfant Mortality.
1890	• • •	26 <b>·</b> 9	• • •	18.2	• • •	2.2	• • •	141.0
1891	• • •	38.8		22'I	• • •	0.6	• • •	111.0
1892	• • •	25.2	• • •	19.7	•••	o.8	• • •	146.2
1893	• • •	30.2	• •	19.1	• • •	3.3		157.0
1894	• • •	27.4	• • •	16.0	• • •	0.7	• • •	117.0
1895	• • •	30.0	• • •	15.4	• • •	1.2	•••	121'0
1896		31.9	•••	16.9	• • •	3.2	• • •	145.0
1897	• •	<b>27 '</b> 9	• • •	15.9	• • •	1.2	• • •	150.5
1898	• • •	27.0	•••	15.0	•••	0.4	•••	119.4

# Action taken during the Year to prevent the Spread of Disease.

#### 1. Notifications of Infectious Diseases.

During the year I received 50 Notifications of Infectious Diseases, as compared with 77 in the previous year. 16 of these were in St. Mary's District, and 34 in St. James'.

The diseases notified and locality in which they occurred were as follows:—

Disease.	St.	Mary's Dis	trict. St.	James' Dist	rict.	Total.
Scarlet Fever		6	• • •	I 2		18
Diphtheria	• • •	2	• • •	5	• • •	7
Membranous Croup	• • •	I	• • •	0	• • •	I
Enteric Fever	• • •	Ο	• • •	7	• • •	7
Erysipelas	• • •	7	• • •	IO	• • •	17
						_
		16		34		50

22 of these 50 cases were removed to the Sanitary Hospital.

#### 2. THE SANITARY HOSPITAL.

Of the 22 cases admitted into the Sanitary Hospital from the Borough, 14 were cases of Scarlet Fever, 4 of Diphtheria, and 4 of Enteric Fever. 5 of these were from St. Mary's, and 17 from St. James' District.

Fuller details will be seen in my Annual Report of the Hospital, which follows this Report. The Parishes from which the cases were admitted were as follows:—

Parish.	Scarlet Fee	ver.	Diphtheria.	E	nt <b>e</b> ric Fe	ver.	Total.
Taunton—							
St. Mary	. 3		2	•••	О	• • •	5
St. James	. 9		2	• • •	4	• • •	15
Bishops Hull	2	• • •	О	• • •	0	• • •	2
	14		4		4		22
3. Disinfection.							

This has been freely and gratuitously carried out wherever required, both rooms and premises, as well as bedding, clothing, &c., which have been removed to the Chamber in Magdalene Street. As I have previously stated, a Steam Disinfector would be much more satisfactory than the one at present in use.

#### 4. Sickness during 1898.

As I have already stated the year has been a particularly healthy one, so much so, in fact, that the Death Rate, which during the months to July and August dropped to 9.6, fell in November to 6.0 per 1,000, the lowest in 25 years.

At the beginning of the year there were some cases of Influenza was prevalent, especially in the month of But from this time onwards there was a remarkable freedom from disease, especially of a Zymotic character. June, two cases of enteric fever occurred, but they were both Again, in September 4 cases occurred. introduced cases. It is a strange fact that the majority of cases of this disease which have come to my knowledge during the last few years have been cyclists, and the only way I could account for the disease was by their drinking polluted water when on their travels. It would be well that more care should be taken in this matter and dubious water be carefully avoided. There is one disease which is a great scourge to mankind and which modern research has shewn to be infectious and to a great extent preventable, viz., Tuberculosis, known most commonly when attaching to the respiratory organs, as Pulmonary Consumption or Phthisis. In this form it is happily decreasing, for I find that the yearly average of deaths from it from 1880 to 1889 was 31, in the present decade it has dropped to 21, and during 1898 there were only 17 deaths from it. The reason of my mentioning this is the fact that its chief source is from tuberculous cattle. From 10 to 20 per cent. of cows in this country, it is said, suffer from it, and the bacillus tuberculosis (the cause of the disease) is conveyed by the milk of the To combat this disease three things tuberculous cow. (among others) are necessary:—1st, the better stalling of cows with good drainage and plenty of air; 2nd, the isolation and (if necessary) the destruction of the diseased cow; and 3rd, the boiling of all milk before consuming it. This will destroy the bacilli and render it harmless. If the taste of boiled milk is objected to, a "sterilizer" can be used, which will have all the advantages of boiling without any of its drawbacks. No milk should be used, especially by the young, unless boiled. For it is found that although phthisis has of late years diminished, the same cannot be said of tuberculosis in the various forms in which it attacks the young.

I need hardly add that the boiling of milk is equally efficacious in the destruction of typhoid and other bacilli. In fact, no household can feel safe unless this precaution is adopted.

# Action taken during the Year for Sanitary Purposes over Places and Houses.

#### I. House Inspection.

The house inspection of the Borough has been well carried out during the year.

Your Sanitary Inspector (Mr. Northcombe) in his Tabular Statement which follows this Report gives 1373 as the number inspected, and 104 re-inspected.

No less than 106 houses were repaired, cleansed, limewashed, &c.

No premises can be safe unless the drains are satisfactory. Your Inspector applied the smoke test to no less than 792 during the year, and in all cases where necessary works were carried out to remedy any existing evils when found, 515 drains requiring repairing, cleaning or trapping. 35 soil pipes were found defective and were repaired.

233 water closets required repair and 47 new ones were provided. I still found a few large, filthy and ill-constructed ashpits in existence. They should all be abolished, being only harbourers of filth and disease, and as the scavengers pay their bi-weekly visits to all houses, there is no excuse for them beyond laziness.

#### 2. WATER SUPPLY.

The number of houses without the Corporation water supply are happily very few; however, some have been discovered during the year. In all instances I have analysed the water and nearly always found it impure.

Samples from Sherford, South Street and Alfred Street were especially bad. In all such case a pure supply was substituted.

Nine such wells were condemned during the year, and 15 houses were supplied with Corporation water.

Special attention has been given to the condition of cisterns, and taps on the main for drinking purposes been recommended. 75 such cases came under observation.

#### 3. Nuisances.

A large number of nuisances were dealt with, no less than 459 cases of such arising from filth accumulations, animals kept in bad state, &c., having been attended to by your Inspector. The nuisances arising from defective drains I have already alluded to. Some difficulty in dealing with these cases occasionally has arisen from the unsatisfactory legal aspect of the question. When is a drain a drain and when a sewer is still a vexed question. Owners are often found, especially if the property be poor and the nuisance great, trying to force the hand of the Sanitary Authority by contending that their drain is a sewer, and so repairable by the Authority and not by the owner. The latest phase of this debatable and dubious question appears to be this:—

- (1) According to the Public Health Act, 1875, a "drain" is a channel for the conveyance of drainage or sewage from one building or from buildings within the same curtilage. A "sewer" includes all sewers and drains of every description except those which fall under the definition of a drain.
- (2) The Public Health Amendment Act, 1890, Sec. 19, makes a "drain" that which receives the drainage of two or more houses belonging to different owners, and laid on private ground, so that the public could not have access to it.

A case resembling No. 2 came under the consideration of your Sanitary and Drainage Committee during the year.

#### 4. Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

These have been constantly inspected during the year.

I have analysed the water from two Dairy Farms within the Borough and found them both good.

There are 41 dairies and milkshops and 9 licensed cowsheds in the Borough.

In the great majority of cases the milk is delivered direct from the cow to the customers' houses, and not stored in the town at all.

I have already spoken of the absolute necessity of cleanliness and other precautions necessary to ensure the freedom of milk from disease germs.

#### 5. Bakehouses and Slaughter-Houses.

Thirty-two of the former and 9 of the latter exist in the town. They have been periodically inspected and no nuisances found.

I cannot but again express the hope, which I have done for many years, that before long a Public Abbatoir will take the place of private slaughter-houses. It would be beneficial in many ways, not only from a sanitary but also from a humane point of view.

#### 6. Lodging Houses.

There are only two registered Lodging Houses. They have been duly inspected and no complaints made.

#### Electric Lighting, &c.

There are two other recent undertakings which, although not generally looked at from a sanitary standpoint, have a very distinct bearing upon the health of the community.

The first of these is the substitution of electric light in dwellings for gas. Especially is this the case in workshops, factories and schoolrooms, where a number of persons are enclosed in a confined and often ill-ventilated space. The ill effects of the combustion of coal gas upon the purity of the atmosphere is well known, and cannot but have a deleterious effect on the health of the inmates. The electric light, on the other hand, far from vitiating the atmosphere, leaves it untainted. I have particularly noticed for how many days the cut fronds of delicate ferns will live in my dining room, whereas a few hours of coal gas would kill them.

Another undertaking which has an indirect bearing on health is the establishment of a Steam Laundry. Anyone inspecting this establishment cannot fail to be struck at its vast superiority over the country cottage. The danger of the conveyance of infectious diseases by clothes is reduced to a minimum. It is not many years ago that I visited a laundress's cottage in the country. She was just finishing the ironing and about to pack the baskets to return to her customers. Sitting in the small kitchen with her was a lad freely desquamating, and in the room overhead a second child in bed suffering from scarlet fever. Such perils are obviated by the use of the Steam Laundry.

#### Meteorology of 1898.

The year has been remarkable for its fine seasons.

The rainfall was a little below the average, the amount being 25.96 inches, the average of preceding years being 26 inches. It fell on 139 days.

The months of least rainfall were January, March and July, when the amount collected was .72, .78, and .25 respectively.

The heaviest rainfall occurred in October and November, 5.19 inches in the former and 4.38 inches in the latter month. These months made up largely for the previously deficient rainfall.

As regards the barometric pressure, the highest averages were in the month of January (30.32) and September (30.12 inches).

The lowest were in October (29.80) and November (29.81).

The highest mean temperature was in August (63.6°), then July (59.7°), and September (59.6°).

The lowest mean temperature was in March (41.1°), and February (42.1°).

I have carefully compared the various meteorological conditions with the death rate and prevalence of disease, but cannot deduce any reliable facts from them.

It is, however, worth recording that influenza prevailed when the barometer was highest and rainfall least, and the lowest death rate (6 per 1000) occurred in November, when the barometer was low (29.81in.) and rainfall heavy (4.38in.)

Your Council have acceded to my request and established a meteorological station, so that the rainfall, temperature, barometer and hours of sunshine are daily registered, and can be seen by the public recorded at the Municipal Buildings.

With this Report are the usual Tables A and B required by the Local Government Board—the former giving the mortality, ages at death, and causes; and the latter the prevalent sickness during the year.

There is also a Meteorological Table, giving the monthly mean height of barometer, mean temperature, with the amount of rainfall and number of days it fell.

I have the honour to be, Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen, Your obedient Servant,

HENRY J. ALFORD, M.D. Lond.,

Medical Officer of Health.

# METEOROLOGICAL REPORT FOR 1898.

Leave					*** *** - * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *	
		Mean Height	Mean	RAINFALL.		
MONTH.		of Barometer.	TEMPERATURE OF AIR.	DAYS IT FELL.	Amount in Inches.	
January	• • •	30.32	44·2°	8	.72	
February	•••	29.98	42.1°	ΙΙ	2.80	
March	•••	29.89	41.1°	11	.78	
April	• • •	29.90	49.2°	ΙΙ	1.73	
May	•••	29.85	54·2°	23	3.46	
June	•••	30.03	57.8°	II	1.56	
July	•••	30.08	59·7°	4	.25	
August	••	30.07	63.6°	13	1.90	
September	•••	30.12	59.6°	5	1.08	
October	•••	29.81	53·4°	17	5.19	
November	•••	29.81	49·5°	14	4.38	
December	• • •	30.05	47·4°	11	2.11	

### TAUNTON RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.



## REPORT

OF THE

### Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1898.

Population of District (1891)	• • •	19,753
Estimated Population to middle of 1898	•••	17,165
Area in Statute Acres,	•••	68,094
Birth Rate per 1000 of Population	• • •	25.5
Death Rate per 1000 of Population	•••	17.7
Zymotic Death Rate	• •	0.2
Infant Mortality per 1000 Births	•••	97.9

#### To the Taunton Rural District Council.

#### MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report of the health of the Rural Sanitary District of Taunton during the year 1898.

Although the Death rate was much the same as in the preceding year, there was an absence of any Epidemic, and a very small number of cases of Zymotic Diseases—in fact the year has been a very healthy one.

#### 1. Sanitary Condition of District.

#### I. WATER SUPPLY.

I have during the year analysed over 90 samples of water. I have especially analysed the water from the Dairy Farms in the District, and in a large majority of the cases I am glad to say have found the water good. This I need hardly say is a matter of the greatest importance, as Typhoid Fever has frequently been spread by the impure water of a Dairy.

Still, a number of wells in various parts of the District I found polluted with sewage which has percolated from an adjoining cesspit or faulty drain.

The water supply of Bishops Lydeard has been excellent both in quality and amount, and the village is most fortunate in this respect. I herewith give an Analysis of the water I made during the year:—

Total Solids	• • •	22.0 §	grains per gallon
Chlorine in Chlorides	•••	1.4	,,
Nitrogen in Nitrates	• • •	Nil.	,,
Nitrites	• • •	Nil.	,,
Oxygen absorbed in 15 minu	tes	0.05	,,
,, ,, 4 hours	s	0.15	,,
Free Ammonia		0.02	parts per million.
Albuminoid do	• • •	0.04	,, ,,
Hardness	• • •		

#### 2. SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

I have visited and inspected the Sewage outfalls at Hatch Beauchamp and North Curry during the year and found them both satisfactory, and free from any nuisance.

The tanks connected with the Norton Outfall Works have been covered, which has greatly improved matters, and prevented the nuisance which formerly existed. As I have, however, previously reported, the irrigation field and works generally require constant attention, or a nuisance will arise.

The drain at Holway became choked during the year, and was repaired by the owner.

Some very bad cases of defective drainage came under my notice during the year, and was brought before your Council and remedied. The frequent emptying of cesspits I wish again to insist upon, as in many cases great carelessness is shown. They are as a rule now much further removed from the water supply than formerly.

#### 3. Houses.

These continue to be kept in a much cleaner state than heretofore. Lime-washing and repairs are more frequent, and the general condition of premises more healthy.

#### Mortality during 1898.

The total Deaths in the District during the year 1898 were 304, or at the rate of 17.7 per 1000. Of these 20 however, occurred at Cotford Asylum, and were introduced into the District from without. These being deducted, reduced the total to 284. On the other hand, 20 residents of the Rural District died in Institutions in the Borough of Taunton, viz., 9 in the Taunton and Somerset Hospital, and 11 in the Union Workhouse, which must be credited to the death rate of the District. It will therefore remain as before stated, 304.

#### Localities.

The various Districts in which these deaths occurred were: 76 in the Pitminster District; 85 in the North Curry; 15 in Taunton St. Mary; 56 in Taunton St. James, and 48 in Bishops Lydeard District; and 24 in Cotford Lunatic Asylum, which is situated in the last-named District.

The 3 deaths in the Sanitary Hospital (situated in St. James' Without) were all Urban cases, and have therefore been credited to the Borough.

#### Sexes.

Of the 304 deaths, 146 were males and 152 females.

#### Ages at Death.

The various ages at death were as follows:—

Under 1 year	•••		43
1 to 5 years	•••	• • •	13
. 5 to 15 ,,	• • •		7
15 to 25 ,,			14
25 to 60 ,,	• .	• • •	72
Over 60 ,,	•••	• • •	155
Total			304

#### DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

As already mentioned, 24 deaths occurred in Cotford Asylum and 3 in the Sanitary Hospital, which were Urban cases.

#### Causes of Death.

#### I. ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

There were only 4 deaths from Zymotic diseases during the year, viz., 1 from diphtheria and 3 from diarrhœa.

This makes the Zymotic death rate 0.2 per 1000.

#### 2. OTHER DISEASES.

Of the other causes of death, 12 were due to influenza, 27 to phthisis, 41 to lung diseases (viz., pneumonia, bronchitis and pleurisy), 39 to heart diseases, 1 to erysipelas, 1 to membranous croup, and 6 to injuries. These, with 173 due to other diseases and the 4 due to Zymotic diseases, bring the total up to 304.

#### Births during 1898.

The total number of Births in the District during the year was 439, or at the rare of 25.5 per 1000 of the population. 94 of these were in the Pitminster District, 141 in North Curry, 24 in Taunton St. Mary, 107 in Taunton St. James, and 73 in Bishops Lydeard District. These are less than in the previous year, when the Births numbered 455.

# Action taken during the Year to Prevent the Spread of Disease.

#### 1. Notification of Infectious Diseases.

I received 32 Certificates under the Notification of Infectious Diseases Act, 1889, during the year. They were as follows:—

Scarlet Fever	·		13	cases.
Diphtheria			IO	, ,
Enteric Fever	•••		3	,,
Erysipelas			6	,,
Total		,	22	

The various Parishes in which the Diseases occurred were:

	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Enteric Fever.	Erysipelas.	Total.
Ash Priors	• • •	•••	I	•••	I
Bickenhall	• • •	I		• • •	I
Bishops Hull	• • •	• • •	I	I	2
Bishops Lydeard	8	I	• • •	I	10
Combe Florey	I	2	• • •	• • •	3
Corfe	• • •	2	• • •	• • •	2
Creech	• •	• •	• • •	2	2
Kingston	I	• • •	• • •	• • •	I
Lydeard St. Lawre	nce	. I	• • •	• • •	I
Monkton (West)	Ţ	• • •	• • •	• • •	I
Norton	• • •		I	• • •	I
North Curry	• •	I	• • •	* • •	I
Thorn	• • •	• • •		I	I
Thurlbear	I	• • •	. • •	• • •	I
Trull	I	2	• •		3
West Hatch	•••	• • •	• • •	I	I
	_			<u>:-</u>	
	13	10	3	6	32

#### 2. THE SANITARY HOSPITAL.

Of the 41 cases admitted into the Sanitary Hospital during the year, 19 were from the Rural District.

The Parishes from whence they came and the Diseases for which they were admitted were as follows:—

		Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Enteric Fever.	Total.
Ash Priors	• • •	•••	• • •	I	I
Bickenhall	• • •	• • •	I	• • •	I
Bishops Hull	•••	• • •		I	, I
Bishops Lydeard	• • •	6	I		. 7
Combe Florey	•••	I	2	• • •	3
Corfe	•••	•••	· I	• • •	I
Kingston		I	•••		I
Lydeard St. Lawrence	• • •	•••	, I		I
Norton	• • •	• • •	• • •	I	I
Trull		Ι.	, I -	• • •	2
	•				
Totals,	• • •	9	7	3	19

For further particulars I would refer to my Annual Report of the Sanitary Hospital which follows this Report.

#### 3. DISINFECTION.

In all cases of infectious diseases disinfection has been carried out by your Inspectors. In some cases, as in small cottages, this is very difficult to do satisfactorily, but where the case is removed to the Sanitary Hospital at an early stage, plenty of limewashing and fresh air appeared to supply the deficiency of disinfection, for in these cases the disease has not spread.

#### 4. Sickness during 1898.

I received 32 notifications of Infectious Disease during the year, as against 61 in the year 1897. They were chiefly scarlet fever and diphtheria, and 3 cases of enteric fever.

#### INFLUENZA.

This disease existed in epidemic form at the beginning of the year and caused 12 deaths. Although very infectious, no attempt is made at isolation—most probably it is impossible; the result is a general epidemic, against which the strong and healthy struggle successfully, and the weak and imprudent go to the wall.

I am convinced that with proper precautions the spread of the disease might be limited. As it is now, it not only causes a high mortality, but leaves frequently disastrous effects behind it.

#### MEASLES.

This disease, which was prevalent in 1897, occurred at Trull, but not in other parts of the district.

#### SCARLET FEVER.

Thirteen cases occurred during the year; 8 of these were in the parish of Bishops Lydeard and one in that of Combe Florey.

One case also occurred at Nailsbourne in the parish of Kingston, one at Trull, one in West Monkton, and one in Thurlbear parish. The rest of the district was free from it.

#### DIPHTHERIA.

Ten cases were reported. Here again the Bishops Lydeard District had the largest share, 2 cases occurring in Combe Florey parish, one in Bishops Lydeard, and one in Lydeard St. Lawrence. One case also occurred at Bickenhall, 2 at Corfe, 2 at Trull, and 1 at Newport in the parish of North Curry. This last case (which was not removed to the Sanitary Hospital) died. The premises were insanitary, drains bad, and well water polluted with sewage.

#### ENTERIC FEVER.

The three cases reported of this disease occurred in the parishes of Ash Priors, Bishops Hull and Norton. Two at least of these, if not the third, were imported cases. They were all removed to the Sanitary Hospital.

# Action taken during the Year for Sanitary Purposes over Places and Houses.

#### 1. SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

The Parochial Committee of Bishops Lydeard have had under their consideration the subject of the better sewerage of the southern portion of the village. Many nuisances were discovered from ill-constructed privies and cesspits, and an adjacent stream was polluted. It was therefore resolved to convey the sewage to a considerable distance, where it can be efficiently treated by filtration and irrigation. It is proposed to carry this out during the coming Spring. The drainage of the Schools at Pitminster having polluted the well, the line of drain was diverted and the nuisance abated.

Cesspits in the Parish of Trull being improperly and inefficiently covered had to be remedied.

At Thorn Falcon some very bad drains were detected, and notice had to be served for their proper construction, which was carried out.

#### 2. WATER SUPPLY.

I found impure water supply in the parishes of Creech, Halse, Bishops Hull, Taunton St. Mary (without), Bishops Lydeard, Pitminster, North Curry, West Monkton, Corfe, Bickenhall, Staplegrove and Thorn Falcon. In all cases notices were served to provide a pure supply, and the necessary works were carried out. A scheme was suggested for carrying water by a main to each cottage in Bagborough, but as the owner of the water would not consent, and there is an ample supply within a reasonable distance, it was not adopted.

#### 3. Nuisances.

A great number of nuisances were reported and abated during the year. On several occasions nuisances arose from the deposit of town refuse near dwellings in the district. The Town Council forbid their Contractors to deposit it within

the Borough, and consequently it is deposited outside, to the annoyance and inconvenience of those residing in the Rural District. It should really be got rid of by a Destructor, and then all complaints of its accumulation would cease. A nuisance arose towards the end of the year from the imperfect flushing of the closets of Norton Schools. These have been flushed in the past from the adjoining millstream, but as the water is occasionally diverted for days, the flushing is not satisfactory. I need hardly insist on the necessity of such premises, where a large number of children congregate, being above suspicion. I advised a trough for the closets, with an automatic flushing tank, and this has at last been adopted, but not until, I regret to say, an order was obtained from Justices, who gave two months for the work to be carried out. A case of overcrowding occurred at Creech and Lydeard St. Lawrence.

#### 4. Housing of Working Classes.

This improves, and all newly-erected houses are satisfactory and in accordance with the bye-laws.

Many cases of dirty houses requiring limewashing and cleansing were reported and dealt with during the year.

#### 5. Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

These have been specially looked after, and, as I have already stated, I have made a systematic analysis of all the water supplies. Speaking generally, greater cleanliness is required in the keeping of cows—their stalls should be well drained and have a plentiful supply of pure air.

When it is remembered that Tuberculosis is an infectious disease, owing its spread to a Bacillus that has been isolated and cultivated, that one-seventh of mankind die of Tuberculosis, and that its prevalence amongst cows is from 10 to 20 per cent., it is easy to see how essential it is that everything that can be done to check so fatal a disease should be carried out. It is not safe to drink milk unless previously boiled—this destroys the Bacilli and prevents the disease. The tuberculosis test should be applied to cows, and all that are tuberculous should be isolated.

#### 6. Bakehouses and Slaughter-Houses.

These have been inspected during the year. A few new slaughter-houses have been licensed when found in keeping with the Bye-laws.

Two tabular statements compiled by your two Inspectors, Messrs. Crump and Goode, accompany this Report. In them will be found the various works they have seen carried out during the year, as regards water supply, drainage, inspections, &c., compiled as before according to the Table in Dr. Whitelegge's Manual of Public Health.

In all cases of new buildings erected in the district during the year, plans have been presented to your Council and passed when found in accordance with the Bye-laws.

I append to this Report the two Tables A and B required by the Local Government Board, the former dealing with the mortality and causes of death, and the latter with the cases of sickness which have occurred in the district, and the admissions into the Sanitary Hospital.

In conclusion I beg to thank your Council for the ready assistance you always give me in my endeavours to improve the sanitary condition of the district and to promote its healthfulness.

I have the honour to be, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, Your obedient Servant,

HENRY ALFORD, M.D. Lond.,

Medical Officer of Health.

### TAUNTON URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

Inspector of Nuisances' Report of the Sanitary Work completed in the Year 1898 (J. W. Northcombe, Certified Inspector).

Nun	nber of	Complaints to Sanitary Officer	•••	79
Nun	iber of	Inspections, House to House, Premises, &c.	• • •	1373
	,,	Re-inspections of Houses, Premises, &c.		104
ion.		ers issued for Sanitary Amendments of Houses, Premises, &c	}	81
Results of Inspection.		ses, Premises, &c., Cleaned, Repaired, Limewashed, &c	}	106
s of	Hou	ses Disinfected after Illness of an Infectious Chara	cter	24
esult	Drai	ins Tested with Smoke Test	•••	792
×	Polls	ution of Stream	•••	
<b>"</b>	Soil	Pipes Repaired and Renewed		35
Drains (House).	Rep	aired, Cleaned, Trapped, &c	•••	515
(H)	Cess	spools Destroyed	• •	_
h 's	Rep	aired	•••	233
Water Closets.	Supp	olied with Water		I
70	New	Provided	• • •	47
Dust Bins.	Rep	aired, Covered, &c	• • •	5
÷	Cist	erns Newly Erected	• • •	16
Water Supply		erns Cleaned, Repaired, Covered, &c., and Main Taps supplied	}	75
/ater	Hou	ses Supplied with Corporation Water	••	15
<i>&gt;</i>	Wel	ls Unfit for Use and Condemned	• • •	9
	Nun	nber of Lodging Houses Registered	• • •	2
	1	t Removal. Number of Communicants received and attended to	}	406
eons.		Animal and other Refuse	}	43
Miscellaneous.	Anir	mals Removed, being improperly kept	• • •	10
Misc		Bakehouses	• • •	32
	Regularly Inspected.	Licensed Cowsheds	• • •	9
	Regu	Dairies and Milkshops, &c	• • •	41
		Licensed Slaughter Houses	• • •	9
Nev	v Hous	es Built and Occupied		66
1				

### TAUNTON RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.

#### NORTHERN DISTRICT.

Inspector of Nuisances' Report of Sanitary Work completed in the Year 1898 (Thos. Goldsworthy Crump).

No.	of Complaints received during Year	•••	• •	14
No.	of Inspection of Houses, Premises, &c.	• • •	about	634
No.	of Re-inspection of Houses, Premises, &c.	• • •	about	239
of on.	Orders issued for Sanitary Amendments of and Premises	House	es }	62
Results of Inspection.	Houses, Premises, &c., Cleaned, Repaired, washed, &c	Whit	e- }	23
I	Houses Disinfected after Illness of an Infection	ous ch	aracter	
use ins.	Repaired, Cleaned, Trapped, &c	•••	•••	45
House Drains.	Ventilated	•••	•••	7
und s.	Repaired, &c		• • •	38
Privies and W.C.'s.	Supplied with Water	• • •	•••	2 I
Pri	New Provided		• •	17
Dust Birs.	New Provided	•••	•••	
Ρ̈́μ	Repaired	•••	•••	_
,	Cisterns (new) Erected, and Water Supply			27
Water Supply.	Cisterns Cleaned, Repaired and Covered	••	• • •	
- S)	Waste Pipes connected with Drains, &c., a	bolish	ed	11
	No. of Lodging Houses Registered	• • •	• • •	
	Dust Removal. No. of Communications and attended to	receiv	red }	
eous.	Removal of Accumulation of Dung, Stagnan Animal and other Refuse	t Wat	er, }	16
Miscellaneous.	Animåls Removed, being improperly kept	•••		6
Misc	Bakehouses		• • •	
	Licensed Cowsheds  Licensed Slaughter Houses	•••	•••	
	Licensed Slaughter Houses	••	• •	17
	Legal Proceedings, i.e., Summonses	•••	• • •	1

### TAUNTON RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.

#### SOUTHERN DISTRICT.

Inspector of Nuisances' Report of Sanitary Work completed in the Year 1898 (W. Garde).

No.	of Complaints received during Year	• •	11
No.	of Inspection of Houses, Premises, &c		672
No.	of Re-inspection of Houses, Premises, &c	• • •	193
of on.	Orders issued for Sanitary Amendments of House and Premises	:s }	61
Results of Inspection.	Houses, Premises, &c., Cleaned, Repaired, White washed, &c	}	18
	Houses Disinfected after Illness of an Infectious cha	racter	5
House Drains.	Repaired, Cleaned, Trapped, &c	• • •	26
Ho	Ventilated	• • •	14
and s.	Repaired, &c	• • •	34
Privies and W.C.'s.	Supplied with Water	• • •	_
Pri	New Provided	• •	13
ıst is.	New Provided		
Dust Birs.	Repaired, Covered, &c	• • •	_
	Cisterns (new) Erected	• • •	
Water Supply.	Cisterns Cleaned, Repaired and Covered	• • •	7
- S	Waste Pipes connected with Drains, &c., abolished	d	
	No. of Lodging Houses Registered	• • •	-
	Dust Removal. No. of Communications received and attended to	d }	p
·sno:	Removal of Accumulation of Dung, Stagnant Water Animal and other Refuse	}	ΙΙ
Miscellaneous.	Animals Removed, being improperly kept	•••	8
Misc	Bakehouses		
	Licensed Cowsheds  Licensed Slaughter Houses	• • •	_
	Licensed Slaughter Houses	• •	14
	Legal Proceedings, i.e., Summonses	• • •	_

Table of Deaths during the Year 1898 in the URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF TAUNTON, (Table A.)

Classified according to Diseases, Ages and Localities

	M	ORTAI	LITY	FROM	ALL	CAUSI	ES	MORTALIT	Y FI	ROM	SUBJ	OINE	D CA	USES	S DIS	STING	UISI	HING	DEA	THS	0F (	HIL	DREN	UN	DER I	FIVE	YEA	ARS	OF A	GE.
		AT	`SUBJ	JOINE	D AG	ES.			I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	ΙΙ	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
LOCALITIES AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS. (a)	g At all Ages.	Under I Year	p I and under 5	(a) 5 and under 15	(f) 15 and under 25	25 and under 60	(y) 60 and upwards	(i)	Small Pox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Membranous Croup		Enteric, or Typhoid	Continued as	Relapsing	Puerperal	Cholera	Erysipelas	Measles.	Whooping Cough	Diarrhœa and Dysentery	Rheumatic Fever	Phthisis	Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy	ise	Influenza	Injuries	All other Diseases	Totals
Taunton St. Mary	106	26	7	3	4	18	48	under 5	•••	•••	•••			• • •	•••	•••	•••			1	• •	5		•••	4	•••	I	•••	22	33
District.								over 5	••	I	·••		••				•••	•••	•••	···		•••		_ 5	14	9	7	•••	37	73
Taunton St. James	151	36	10	7	4	35	59	under 5			••			•••	•••	•••	•••		I		I	4			7		2	•••	31	46
District.				,				over 5		•••	•••			I			•••		2				•••	9	18	12	5	1	57	105
Taunton and Somerset	17	2	2		I	8	4	under 5		•••	•••	•••	···		•••			•••	•••	•••				•••	•••	••			4	4
Hospital.								over 5	•••	•••	•••		•••				•••		•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	I	2			. • 1	10	13
Union Workhouse.	25	I	Ī		2	7	14	under 5	•••		•••		•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••		•••	•••	•••		•••	•••			I	I	2
								over 5			•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••		• • •	• •	•••	I	2	I	2	I	I	15	23
Totals.	299	65	20	10	II	68	125	under 5					•••			•••	•••		I	I	I	9	•••	•••	11		3	I	58	85
Totals					ļ			over 5		I				I	•••				2	•••	•••	•••	I	17	35	23	13	2	119	214



Table of Population, Births, and of new cases of Infectious Sickness coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year 1898, in the URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF TAUNTON, Classified according to the Diseases, Ages and Localities. (Table B.)

	Population		over 5	Nev									ng to alth.	th e	N			uch c eral L	ocali		or tre	atme			s in
	at allAges.	ths	and (	I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	I I	I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	01	II
		l Births	20				dno		I	Peve	rs							dna		]	Pever	rs 			
LOCALITIES.	Census. 1891.	Registered	Aged under	Small Pox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Membranous Cro	Typhus	Enteric, or Typhoid	Continued	Relapsing	Puerperal	Cholera	Erysipelas	Small Pox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Membranous Cro	Typhus	Enteric, or Typhoid	Continued	Relapsing	Puerperal	Cholera	Erysipelas
			under 5		<u>J</u>											7									
Taunton St. Mary District.	9,105	220	5 upwards		5	2		••		•••	•••			7	•••	2	2					•••	•••		
Taunton St. James	9 007		under 5	•••	5	• • •	•••		•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	5	•••	•••	•••		•••	•••	•••	• • •	
District.	8,921	324	5 upwards	•••	7	5	•••		7	•••	• • •		•••	10		6	2		•••	4	•••	•••	•••	• • •	• • •
Taunton and Somerset			under 5	•••	•••	•••	• • •	•••	•••	•••	•••		•••	• •		•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	• • •	• • •
Hospital.	•••	• • • •	5 upwards	•••		•••	• • •			•••	•••	• • •		•••	•••	•••		•••	• • •	•••	•••	•••	• • •	•••	
Union Workhouse.	•		under 5	•••		•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••		•••	•••	•••	• • •	• • •	•••	• • •	•••	•••	•••	•••	
Omon workhouse.	•••	•••	5 upwards	•••	•••			•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••		•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	••	• • •	•••	•••	•••
Totals.	18,026	T 4 1	under 5	•••	6	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••		•••	•••		•••	6			•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	• • •	
Totals.	10,020	544	5 upwards		12	7	J	•••	7	•••		•••	• • •	17		8	4	•••	•••	4	•••	•••	•••	•••	

Notification of Infectious Diseases is compulsory in District since January 1st, 1890.

The Isolation Hospital (Taunton Sanitary Hospital) is situated in Taunton St. James' Without (Rural portion).



Table of Deaths during the Year 1898 in the RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT OF TAUNTON, (Table A.)

Classified according to Diseases, Ages and Localities

	М	ORTAI	LITY	FROM	ALL	CAUSI	ES	MORTALI'	ry fi	ROM	SUBJ	OINE	D CA	LUSES	S DIS	STING	UISI	HING	DEA	THS	0F (	CHIL	DREN	UN	DER	FIVE	YE	ARS	OF A	GE.
		AT	SUBJ	JOINE	D AGI	ES.			I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	IO	II	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	_ 22
LOCALITIES AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS. (a)	(9) At all Ages.	Under I Year	g I and under 5	5 and under 15	J 15 and under 25	25 and under 60	(y) 60 and upwards	(i)	Small Pox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Membranous   Croup	Typhus	Enteric, or Typhoid	Continued	Relapsing	Puerperal	Cholera	Erysipelas	Measles.	Whooping Cough	Diarrhœa and Dysentery	Rheumatic Fever	Phthisis	Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy	Heart Disease	Influenza	Injuries	All other Diseases	Totals
1. Pitminster District.	76	II	7	3	4	16	35	under 5		•••	•••		•••		•••		•••		•••		• •	2	•••	•••	3				13	18
								over 5			•••	··•	••			•••		•••	•••	•••			•••	10	9	4	3	I	3 i	58
2. North Curry District.	85	10	3	2	3	17	50	under 5			I		•••		•••	•••	•••	•••		••		•••			3				9	13
					-			over 5	-	• • •	•••	•••				· · ·	•••							7	6		2	I	39	$\frac{7^2}{-}$
3. Taunton St. Mary District.	15	4	• • •	•••	I	3	7	under 5 over 5	-		•••	•••	•••				•••		٠		•••	•••	•••	т.	I	··		•••	3 7	$\left  \frac{4}{11} \right $
Townton St. Inmed	-							under 5	-	•••	•••	I	•••					•••	•••	•••	•••		•••	•••	2				5	9
4. Taunton St. James District.	56	9	•••		2	II	34	over 5			•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••		•••		•••	•••	•••	•••	5	7	9	3	3	23	47
5. Bishops Lydeard	48				2	1.4	10	under 5	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	• • •		•••	• • •	••	• • •	•••			•••	I	4	I	•••	•••	6	12
District.	40	9	3			14	19	over 5	•••	•••	•••	• • •	• • •		•••		•••	• •				•••	•••	I	3	6	2	3	2 [	36
6. Cotford Asylum.	24			I	2	II	10	under 5			•••	•••	••		•••		•••	• • •	•••	• • •	•••	• • •		• • •				• • •	•••	
O. Cottora risyrum.								over 5					•••	•••	•••		•••		• • •	•••	• • •			2	3	2		I	16	24
Totals.	304	43	13	7	14	72	155	under 5		•••	I	I	•••		•••		•••				• •	3		I	13	I			36	56
100000								over 5			•••						<b></b>		I			•••	•••	26	28	38	I 2	6	137	248



Table of Population, Births, and of new cases of Infectious Sickness coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year 1898, in the RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT OF TAUNTON, Classified according to the Diseases, Ages and Localities.

(Table B.)

	Population at all Ages.		over 5	Ne					in eac Medic						N			eral l	Local		for tr	eatmo		home.	s in
	acaninges.	rths	and	I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	01	II	I	2	3	1 4	5	6	7	8	9	01	II
		ed Biı	<b>1</b> 0				dnc			Feve	rs							dno			Feve	rs			
LOCALITIES.	Census. 1891.	(c) Registere	Aged under	Small Pox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Membranous Cro	Typhus	Enteric, or Typhoid	Continued	Relapsing	Puerperal	Cholera	Erysipelas	Small Pox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Membranous Cro	Typhus	Enteric, or Typhoid	Continued	Relapsing	Puerperal	Cholera	Erysipelas
Pitminster District.	4,325	94	under 5	•••					•••	•••	•••			•••		••	•••		••		•••	•••		•••	•••
			5 upwards	•••	2	5		•••	•••	•••	•••	• • •	• • •	4	•••	I	3	•••	• • •	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	• • •
North Curry District.	5,147	141	under 5			••,		•••		•••	•••	•••	•••		•••		•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	
•			5 upwards	•••		I		•••		•••	•••	•••	• • •	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	••	•••	•••	•••	• • •	•••
Taunton St. Mary District.	968	24	under 5	•••	•••			•••		•••	,		•••	••	•••	•••	•••		•••	• • •			•••	• • •	
			5 upwards			•••	•••		•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	. • • •	• • •	••	•••	•••	•••	•••	••			•••
Taunton St. James District.	5,117	107	under 5	•••	••	•••		•••		•••	• • •	• • •	••	•••		• • •	•••	• • •	• • •	• • •	•••	• • •	• • •		• • •
District.	-		5 upwards	•••	2	•••	•••	•••	2		•••	•••	• • •	I	•••	I	•••	• • •	•••	2	·	•••	•••		•••
Bishops Lydeard District.	3,196	73	under 5	·	•••	•••	•••		•••	• • •	•••	•••		•••		•••	•••	٠٠.	• • •		• • •	•••	•••		• • •
District.			5 upwards	•••	9	4	• • •	•••	)	•••	•••	• • .	•••	I	•••	7	4		•••	I	• • •		•••		• • •
Totals.	18,753	439	under 5	•••	•••						• • •	• • •	•••	• • •	•••	•••	•••		•••	•••	•	•••	•••		
	Totals.   18,753		5 upwards	•••	13	10	•••		3		• • •			6		9	7	•••	•••	3	••		•••		•••

Notification of Infectious Diseases is compulsory in District since November, 1889.

The Isolation Hospital (Taunton Sanitary Hospital) is situated in Taunton St. James' Without (Rural portion).



## THE ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1898,

OF THE

# TAUNTON SANITARY

# HOSPITAL.

BY

HENRY J. ALFORD, M.D., LOND.,

Medical Officer to the Institution.

Committee:

MR. W. A. WRENN. | MR. VILLAR.

MR. SIBLEY.

Medical Officer:

DR. ALFORD.

Matron:

MISS M. BARDWELL.



### ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1898

OF THE

### TAUNTON SANITARY HOSPITAL.

 $\mathbf{B}\mathbf{Y}$ 

HENRY J. ALFORD, M.D., LOND.,

Medical Officer to the Institution.

TAUNTON, January, 1899.

To the Sanitary Hospital Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Eighteenth Annual Report of the Taunton Sanitary Hospital.

Cases admitted during 1898.

The total number of cases admitted from January 1st to December 31st, 1898, was 41. This makes the total admissions to the Hospital since its opening in 1879, 1581, the yearly admissions being as follows:—

From	July,	1879	to Septe	mber,	1880	• • •	42
,,	Oct.,	1880	,,	,,	1881	• •	19
,,	,,	1881	,,	,,	1882	• • •	76
,,	,,	1882	,,	,,	1883	• • •	64
,,	,,	1883	,,	,,	1884	• • •	127
,,	,,	1884	,,	,,	1885	•••	205
,,	,,	1885	,,	,,	1886		60
,,	,,	1886	,,	,,	1887	0.	93
,,	,,	1887	,,	,,	1888	• • •	66
,,	,,	1888	,,	,,	1889	• • •	25
,,	,,	1889	,,	,,	1890	• • •	79
,,	,,	1890	,,	,,	1891	• • •	70
,,	,,	1891	to Dece	mber,	1892	• • •	44
,,	Jan.,	1893	,,	,,	1893		182
,,	,,	1894	,,	,,	1894	• • •	176
,,	,,	1895	,,	· ,,	1895	• • •	69
,,	,,	1896	,,	• •	1896	• • •	65
,,	,,	1897	,,	,,	1897	• • •	78
,,	,,	1898		,,	1898	• • •	41

making a total of 1581 cases.

#### Cases Admitted during 1898.

The various diseases in 1898 were as follows:—

Scarlet Fever	• • •	•••	23	cases
Diphtheria	• • •	• • •	ΙI	,,
Enteric Fever	• • •	• • •	7	,,
Total		• • •	<b>4</b> T	• •

#### Localities.

Twenty-two of the 41 cases were from the Borough, and 19 were from the Rural Sanitary District. They were as follows:—

#### I. URBAN DISTRICT.

,		Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Enteric Fever.	Total.
Taunton St. Mary District			2	:	5
Taunton St. James District	• • •	10	3	4	17
Totals		13	5	4	22

#### 2. RURAL DISTRICT.

			Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Enteric Fever.	Total.
Ash Priors	• • •	• • •	•••	• • •	I	I
Bickenhall	• • •	• • •	• • •	I		I
Bishops Hul		•••	• • •		I	I
Bishops Lyd	leard	• • •	6	I	• • •	7
Combe Flore	ey		I	2		3
Corfe	•••	• • •	• • •	I	• • •	I
Kingston	•••	• • •	I	• • •	•••	I
Lydeard St.	Lawrence	• • •	• • •	I	• • •	I
Norton	• • •	• • •	• • •	• • •	I	I
Trull	••	• • •	I	I	•••	2
		•				
	Totals	• • •	9	7	3	19

The relative proportion of Urban and Rural cases admitted annually since the opening of the Hospital is shown in the following table:—

		Urban Cases.		Rural Cases.		Totals.
1879-80	•••	19	•••	23	• • •	42 .
1880-81		11	• • •	8	• • •	19
1881-82	• • •	63	• • •	13	• • •	<b>7</b> 6
1882-83	• • •	29	• • •	35	•••	64
1883-84	• • •	70	•••	5 <i>7</i>	• • •	127
1884-85	• • •	166	• • •	<b>3</b> 9	• • •	205
1885-86	• • •	46	•••	14	• • •	60
1886-87		47	• • •	46	• • •	93
1887-88	•••	27	• • •	39	• • •	66
1888-89	• • •	16	• • •	9	• • •	25
1889-90	• • •	58	• • •	2 I	• • •	<b>7</b> 9
1890-91	• • •	29	• • •	41	• • •	70
1891 92	• • •	26	•••	18	• •	44
1892-93	• • •	I 20	• • •	62	• • •	182
1893-94	• • •	132	• • •	44	• • •	176
1894-95	•••	64	• • •	5	• • •	69
1895-96		46	• • •	19	• • •	65
1896-97	•••	45	•••	33	• • •	78
1897-98	• • •	22	• • •	19	, •••	41
Totals	•••	1036		545		1581

Sexes.

Of the 41 cases admitted, 17 were males and 24 females.

#### AGES.

The	ages of	Patients ad:	mitted were	e as follows:	<del></del>
Under	ı to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 60	Over 60
ı year	years	years	years	years	years
Ο	6	20	10	5	0

It will be seen that the great majority of cases were children between the ages of 5 and 15 years.

#### Monthly Admissions.

The number of cases admitted each month of the year were:—

		Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	- Enteric Fev <b>e</b> r.	Total.
January	• • •	7	• • •	• • •	7
February	• • •	• • •	2		2
March	• • •	2	• • •	• • •	2
April	• • •	I	2	• • •	, 3
May	• • •	2	2	•••	4
June	• . •	I		I	2
July	•••	I	2	• • •	3
August		• • •	• • •	• • •	
September		I	• • •	6	7
October	• • •	2	I	• • •	3
November	• • •	5	I	• • •	6
December	• • •	I	I	• • •	2
			-		
		23	ΙΙ	7	41

Patients were admitted in every month except August.

#### Progress of Cases.

Of the 41 cases admitted, 3 died. One of the fatal cases was double Pneumonia, with aphthous mouth (reported as Diphtheria). He was sinking when admitted. The second fatal case was a child, two years old, with scarlet fever, who died from acute Bright's Disease, from which she was suffering on admission. The third case was one of Enteric Fever, removed during the third week, who had intestinal hæmorrhage and sank. My experience of this disease has proved to me that the patient should be removed as early as possible. To postpone until there is extensive intestinal ulceration is a most fatal policy, and however much care is taken, hæmorrhage and possible perforation is very likely to occur. The other cases do not call for remark.

#### GENERAL WORKING OF THE HOSPITAL.

With the exception of some change in the nursing staff, the work of the Hospital has proceeded as usual. The wards have been painted during the year, and now present a very clean and comfortable appearance.

#### Cost of Hospital During 1898.

Mr. Norris (the Borough Accountant) has kindly furnished me with a tabular statement of the cost of the Hospital. The total cost was £532 7s. 1d. All the various items were below that of the previous year, except those coming under the heading of "Sundry payments" and "Repairs." The painting (already alluded to) and other expenses account for this increase. The various items were as follows:—

			£	s.	d.
Salaries, Wages and sun	dry	Payments	215	14	5
Bread and Flour		••	12	15	7
Meat, Butter and Milk	• • •	• • •	117	2	0
Groceries, &c	• • •	• • •	40	13	10
Ale, Wine and Spirits	• • •	•••	8	8	8
Coals	• • •	•••	29	6	8
Gas and Water	• • •	• • •	33	2	I
Disinfectants, &c.			18	7	9
Horse Hire for Ambulance	e	• • •	7	I	6
Repairs and Rates	• • •	• • •	45	8	10
Printing and Stationery	• • •	• • •	4	5	9
			$\pounds 53^2$	7	I
		=			

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

HENRY J. ALFORD, M.D., Lond.,

Medical Officer to the Hospital.

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